

## Clerk Names Randy Bryant Systems Chief

Randy Bryant, a former staffer who helped bring computerization to the circuit court clerk's office before leaving for a position with Justice Integration Systems, has returned to become systems administrator, Circuit Court Clerk Richard Rooker announced.

Bryant assumed the position on October 18, replacing Mike Garrett, who resigned in September to become a consultant/analyst for a private company.



BRYANT

Bryant joined the General Sessions Civil Division office staff in 1979 after passing the state bar exams. He went on to hold a variety of key positions there and in other departments, eventually becoming administrative assistant to then-clerk George L. Rooker (deceased).

During his service to the clerk, Bryant assisted in the design of a General Sessions case management system and the Circuit Court child support system. He brought the first word processors and PCs to the Circuit Court Clerk's Office and set up forms, macros and mail merges used there. He wrote a rudimentary cost tracking/billing program to replace index cards, as well as programs to print jury lists, cards and payroll authorizations.

Additionally, he designed the PC-based cash registers and validator for the Traffic Violation Bureau.

As systems administrator, Bryant will oversee computer operations for all departments under Rooker, including circuit, probate and general sessions civil courts and the Traffic Violation Bureau.

## Brothers Unmatched as PJ



*Sixth Circuit Judge Tom Brothers on the bench in temporary Metro Center courtroom*

### CIRCUIT JUDGE SERVING FOURTH YEAR OVER TRIAL COURTS

When it comes to presiding over the state trial courts, no one can match the experience of Sixth Circuit Court Judge Tom Brothers.

Brothers is now two months into his second two-year term as the head of business affairs for the county's 18 trial judges, the first to hold that position for four one-year terms.

Not only is he serving *at* the pleasure of his fellow judges, he is doing so *with* pleasure, he says.

"We have the best bench in Tennessee," he opined, crediting fellow jurists with strong work ethics and total cooperation in both case and space interchange.

Because three new judgeships were created after the courts were tem-

porarily relocated to the Metro Center, judges often have to "borrow" courtrooms from other judges to conduct their business. That has proven to be an inconvenience rather than a problem, said Brothers, citing a willingness by the judges to share and adherence to what he called a "near perfect" central case assignment system.

He credits the success of that system to the late deputy clerk Holly Russell. "It was her concept, she designed it and it works like a charm," he said.

"We seldom find the need to continue a case," he said. "And our courts hear more cases than any other in the state."

Brothers, now in his 15th year on the bench after being appointed by Gov. Ned McWherter in 1989 and winning two eight-year elected terms, claims to have no authority as presiding judge. "We are all equal," he emphasized, "and we take a unified approach to our wants and needs."

But there are certain important responsibilities that rest on the shoulders of the presiding judge. For example, he must ensure that the case management program is handled properly; oversee the budget process and communicate regularly with Trial Court Administrator Larry Stephenson to discuss the day-to-day

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## CHEERS...



JUDGE ROBINSON

General Sessions Judge **Gale Robinson** said he was surprised when he was accepted as a juror in a recent criminal court trial, but that he savored the experience and was impressed by the legal acumen of his fellow panelists, who never sought his advice during deliberations. Like his aunt, Fourth Circuit Judge **Muriel Robinson**, who also was chosen as a juror a few years earlier, the sessions judge said he felt a great sense of civic pride in answering the call for jury duty.

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Did we forget to mention that Eighth Circuit Court Judge **Carol Solomon** is a grandmother again? We apologize for being late with the news. Her third trip into grandparenthood came on July 19 when son **John** and his wife **Elise** presented her honor with an 8 pound, 14 ounce grandson named **Samuel Offutt**. We extend our belated congratulations to all parties.



JUDGE SOLOMAN

## ...TEARS

**FRANCES KELSO MONDELLI, 82**, widow of the late General Sessions Judge Les Mondelli Sr., and mother of current General Sessions Judge Mike Mondelli and four other sons--two of them attorneys-- died on September 27. Death was attributed to Alzheimer's disease. She was well known for her devotion to the Catholic church and volunteer work, drawing on her experience in nursing. Surviving sons Jim Mondelli and Frank Mondelli are attorneys while son Les Mondelli, Jr. is director of the General Session Probation Department. Son Mark Mondelli is in private business.

**SAM OSBORNE, 80**, father in law of General Sessions Civil Division deputy clerk Brenda Osborne, passed away on Sept. 22 at Baptist Hospital.

**RUBY BAKER HAAS, 93**, mother in law of retired deputy probate court clerk Phil York, passed away on Sept. 16. In addition to her daughter Linda York, she leaves one son, Kenneth Haas.

**LEE THUNE**, grandfather of deputy Circuit Court Clerk Rob Rutherford, passed away in September. A memorial service was held this month in North Carolina where he resided.

**LUTIE CHANCELLOR ALLEN, 94**, grandmother of deputy circuit court clerk Christy Allen and mother of attorney H. Stanley Allen, Jr., passed away on Oct. 19. She was the widow of H. Stanley Allen Sr., co-founder of the Allen Insurance Agency.

**ANDREW JACKSON BLACKWELL III**, a member of the Underhill, Blackwell and Underhill law firm, passed away October 20 at Vanderbilt Medical Center while awaiting a liver transplant. A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on October 30 at the Blakemore United Methodist Church on West End Avenue.

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

### Circuit Court Clerk

11 Bill Riggs  
12 Tim Ray  
14 Stephanie Hill  
26 Hilary Duke  
27 Anthony Givens

General Sessions  
None

### Traffic Violations

3 Monica England  
13 Patsy Jackson  
24 Dinah Williams  
26 Rhonda Hall  
Nick Lane

Probate Clerk  
1 Ruth Lester



A convoy of dump trucks hauls rock from a blasting area in front of the Metro Courthouse where an underground parking facility will be constructed. A park plaza will be fashioned atop the underground garage to complement restoration of the historical courthouse.

## Fan-cy That



Deputy Probate Clerk **Ricky Deatherage** is the self-proclaimed number one fan of country music superstar **Dolly Parton**. That explains the big smile as he poses with the singer at a recent book-signing event at Cool Springs Mall. Prior to getting his picture taken with his idol, Ricky had gotten an autograph and a kiss on the cheek. Said Ricky: "I will never was that spot again."

## Holiday Closing Dates

THE LOCAL COURT SYSTEM WILL BE CLOSED FOR THREE DAYS IN BOTH NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER IN OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL HOLIDAYS.

IN NOVEMBER, THE COURTS AND AFFILIATED SERVICES WILL NOT BE IN OPERATION ON:

- Veterans Day (Thursday, Nov. 11)
- Thanksgiving Day (Thursday, Nov. 25)
- Friday after Thanksgiving (November 26)

ALL OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED IN DECEMBER, BEGINNING ON:

- Christmas Eve (Friday, December 24) and continuing through Monday, December 27.
- New Year's Day will be observed on Friday, December 31 and Monday, January 3.

## Rooker Report

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Established by George L. Rooker (1929-1993)  
(Circuit Court Clerk, 1968-1993)

Richard R. Rooker.....Circuit Court Clerk  
Gene Baker.....Editor



ADA coordinator, Gene Baker (660-3309)



# SEPTEMBER JURY TRIALS

## Week of September 20

### CIRCUIT COURT

CASE	TYPE	COURT	PRAYER	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT
02C-1684	WRONGFUL DEATH	2ND		HUNG JURY	

## Week of September 27

CASE	TYPE	COURT	PRAYER	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT
03C-2780	GSA/T'FER/AUTO ACCIDENT	1ST		\$8,000	

## Soft Tissue

CASE	TYPE	COURT	PRAYER	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
03C-2911	AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	6TH	\$50,000	\$5,420*			
03C-1931	AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	6TH	\$200,000	\$30,375			
03C-1808	GSA/AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	5TH		\$93,400			

\*--DEFAULT JUDGMENT ON DEFENDANT'S COUNTERCLAIM.

## NON-JURY TRIAL RESULTS

## Week of September 13

### CIRCUIT COURT

CASE	TYPE	COURT	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
03C-201	DAMAGES	3RD	\$1.7 MILLION			
03C-3578	GSA/PROPERTY DAMAGE	2ND	\$2,879		DISMISSED	PLAINTIFF
03C-762	DAMAGES	3RD	\$80,000			
03C-1090	CONTRACT	1ST	\$30,603			
03C-2660	WORKERS COMPENSATION	1ST	PENDING			
04C-1473	GSA/DETAINDER	5TH	\$2,096		DISMISSED	PLAINTIFF
04C-1468	GSA/CONTRACT	2ND	\$1,722		DISMISSED	PLAINTIFF
04C-1838	GSA/CONTRACT	2ND	PENDING		P-\$2,457	DEFENDANT

## Brothers In 4th Term As Presiding Judge

(From Page 1)

operations of all trial courts, which include chancery and criminal courts as well as circuit.

Once a month, the judges gather for a luncheon to discuss problems and other judicial matters. Brothers says it serves as a time of bonding and networking and "keeps us socializing."

Brothers was only 40 years old with two years of bench service when he was first chosen presiding judge in 1991. Since that time it has become customary for presiding trial court judges to serve two one-year terms. He is the first to be so honored twice.

"I am very honored and privileged to be elected by my peers to serve," he said, adding, "I appreciate their support."

Brothers looks forward to returning to his own courtroom in the courthouse, primarily because of its superior technical reproduction qualities. It was there that video and audio equipment were first installed to record proceedings related to the national class action suit against Bridgestone Tire Company, which is still ongoing with the addition of Firestone, Ford and General Motors as co-defendants. The equipment was reinstalled in the temporary courtroom but Brothers says the lighting and acoustics are not of the same high standard for reproduction purposes.

P	PLAINTIFF	GSA	GENERAL SESSIONS APPEAL
D	DEFENDANT	ST	SOFT TISSUE



THE COMPUTER IS AN IMPORTANT DAILY COMMUNICATIVE TOOL FOR BROTHERS



## AUTO ACCIDENTS

### 2004 CASE ANALYSES

PLAINTIFFS 30  
DEFENDANTS 9

RATIO: PLAINTIFFS 3-1

### MONTH-BY-MONTH

	TOTALS	JURY	NON-JURY	PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	NONE
JAN-JUNE	29	23	6	19	6	4
JULY	2	0	2	1	0	1
AUGUST	9	8	1	7	1	0
SEPTEMBER	4	3	1	3	1	0

### JURY AWARDS

MONTH	\$TOTALS	DOLLAR RANGE	\$MEAN
JANUARY	57,050	1,296-52,500	3,254
FEBRUARY	76,410	1,266-60,000	15,144
MARCH	243,589	0-243,589	N/A
APRIL	46,717	N/A	N/A
MAY	55,250	5,250-50,000	N/A
JUNE	137,071	6,871-102,500	13,850
JULY	N/A	N/A	N/A
AUGUST	135,509	700-110,962	4,769
SEPTEMBER	43,795	5,420-30,375	19,187

### NON-JURY AWARDS

MONTH	\$TOTALS	DOLLAR RANGE	\$MEAN
JANUARY	60,124	6,664-35,000	18,460
FEBRUARY	6,500	N/A	N/A
MARCH-MAY	N/A	N/A	N/A
JUNE	900	N/A	N/A
JULY	2,000	N/A	N/A
AUGUST	7,000	N/A	N/A
SEPTEMBER	93,400	N/A	N/A

### SOFT TISSUE CASES

MONTH	\$TOTALS	DOLLAR RANGE	\$MEAN
JANUARY	53,500	1,000-52,500	N/A
FEBRUARY	61,266	1,266-60,000	N/A
MARCH	243,589	0-243,589	N/A
APRIL	N/A	N/A	N/A
MAY	55,250	5,250-50,000	N/A
JUNE	14,571	6,871-7,700	N/A
JULY	2,000	N/A	N/A
AUGUST	133,315	700-110,962	5,413
SEPTEMBER	129,195	5,420-93,400	30,375

### GENERAL SESSIONS AUTO CASE APPEALS

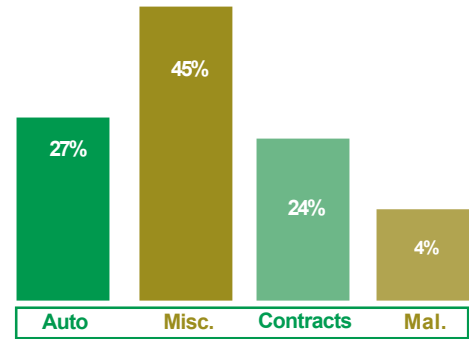
MONTH	\$TOTALS	PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	NONE
JANUARY	28,378	3	0	0
FEBRUARY	0	0	0	0
MARCH-MAY	0	0	1	0
JUNE	8,600	2	1	1
JULY	0	0	0	0
AUGUST	13,000	2	1	0
SEPTEMBER	8,000	1	0	0



### MISCELLANEOUS

YTD 72  
PLAINTIFFS 53  
DEFENDANTS 4  
NO VERDICT 15

## CIVIL TRIALS BY CLASS



## DATA BANK

Statistics compiled for the month of September

### CASE INFORMATION

#### Circuit Court

NEW CIVIL CASES FILED .....	260
JURY .....	108
NON-JURY .....	152
CIVIL CASES CONCLUDED .....	321
JURY .....	190
NON-JURY .....	131
NEW DIVORCE CASES FILED .....	199
DIVORCE CASES CONCLUDED .....	217

#### General Sessions Civil

NEW CASES FILED .....	2,823
EXECUTIONS ISSUED .....	3,042
GARNISHMENT PAYMENTS .....	3,392
JUDGMENTS COLLECTED .....	\$572,743
ORDER OF PROTECTION PETITIONS .....	196

#### Probate Court

NEW CASES FILED .....	155
CASES CLOSED .....	172

#### Traffic Violations

MOVING CITATIONS .....	31,858
PARKING VIOLATIONS .....	5,429
TOTAL FINES COLLECTED .....	\$452,006
NULLIFICATIONS .....	3,623
NULLIFICATION FEES COLLECTED .....	\$43,476



### CONTRACTS

YTD 38  
PLAINTIFFS 26  
DEFENDANTS 8  
NO VERDICT 4

September Awards--\$32,325. Year to Date--\$281,931



### MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

YTD 7  
PLAINTIFFS 1  
DEFENDANTS 6  
NO VERDICT 0